

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 240624Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7222

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3964

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, US, IS, RO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF RABBI MILLER

REF: (A) STATE 146299; (B) BUCHAREST 2763

1. I MET WITH RABBI MILLER IN JERUSALEM FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR LAST EVENING, JUNE 23. HE WAS APPRECIATIVE OF INFO PROVIDED FROM REFTELS. AS APPROPRIATE, I ENCOURAGED HIM TO MAKE VISIT. HE WAS GENERALLY NEGATIVE AS EXPLAINED BELOW.

2. AT END OUR DISCUSSION, RABBI MILLER ASKED THAT I COMMUNICATE FOLLOWING TWO SPECIFIC POINTS TO DEPARTMENT AND TO AMBASSADOR BARNES:

(A) HE IS NOT REPEAT NOT CONTEMPLATING VISIT TO ROMANIA AT THIS TIME FOR FEAR IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

(B) HE IS TENDING IN DIRECTION OF ACCEPTING SUGGESTION "OF CONGRESSMEN" THAT HOUSE COMMITTEE SHOULD REPORT BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE WITH FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION BUT WITH PROVISIO THAT APPROVAL BY FULL HOUSE BE "CONDITIONAL" ON ACTUAL ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE RE EMIGRATION IN INTERIM PERIOD. (TO JUDGE BY HIS REMARKS, HE THINKS THIS SHOULD TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF FOR THE TIME BEING, BOTH AS CONCERNS MFN AND A VISIT TO BUCHAREST.)

3. RABBI MILLER ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT PASS INFO IN PARA 2, ABOVE, TO CONGRESSMAN BINGHAM.

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4. IN COURSE DISCUSSION, RABBI MILLER MADE CLEAR HE UNHAPPY

RABBI ROSEN SHOWED UP IN ISRAEL. HE SHOWED ME CABLE HE HAD RECEIVED LAST WEEK FROM ROSEN INVITING HIM TO ROMANIA. MILLER SAID IN REPLY HE SUGGESTED THEY MEET IN GENEVA NEXT WEEK. HE DID NOT SAY HE WOULD NOT SEE ROSEN HERE, BUT CLEARLY IS NOT GOING TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE.

5. RABBI MILLER EXPLAINED THAT HE THOUGHT A VISIT TO ROMANIA WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AT THIS TIME BECAUSE HE DID NOT BELIEVE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD PERMIT MIH TO STATE PUBLICLY HE SATISFIED RE INCREASE IN EMIGRATION. HE APPRECIATED INDICATIONS OF MORE EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF MATTER BY ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES AND HOPED THAT FINAL EMIGRATION FIGURES FOR JUNE WILL BE AROUND 200.

ON ASSUMPTION JULY EMIGRATION FIGURES WERE NEAR 250, HE COULD THEN LOOK WITH FAVOR ON A VISIT TO ROMANIA. IN HIS CALCULATIONS OF BEST TIMING FOR VISIT, RABBI MILLER SAID HE WAS INFLUENCED BY WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS UNSUCCESSFUL MEETING IN WASHINGTON RECENTLY WITH CEAUSESCU, STRESSING THEY SEEMED TO BE TALKING PAST EACH OTHER. HE SAID HE APPRECIATED CEAUSESCU'S "PROMISE" TO ALLOW ALL JEWS WHO WISHED TO EMIGRATE TO DO SO: HE NOTED, HOWEVER, CEAUSESCU REFUSED TO STATE THIS PUBLICLY. HE FEARED A REPEAT OF THEIR EXPERIENCE IF HE WENT TO BUCHAREST NOW, WITH HARMFUL EFFECTS ALL AROUND. THEREFORE, HE CONCLUDED HE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THE EMIGRATION FIGURES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES RE ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE.

6. RABBI MILLER NOTED HE HAD MET WITH BOTH PM RABIN AND FORMIN ALLON WHO HAD FILLED HIM IN ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO BUCHAREST. (ALLON TOLD HIM CEAUSESCU AND MACOVESCU BOTH HAD REPEATED PRESIDENT'S "PROMISE" TO MILLER RE EMIGRATION OF JEWS.) HE SAID GOI WAS INTERESTED IN MFN FOR ROMANIA IN INTERESTS ISRAEL'S OVERALL RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA. HE TOOK OCCASION TO PAY TRIBUTE TO ROMANIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTURE RE ISRAEL DESPITE OBVIOUS PRESSURES FROM SOVIETS AND ARABS. HE SAID THAT, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, GOI WAS ADOPTING POSTURE THAT THIS WAS "AMERICAN PROBLEM," WITH INFERENCE ISRAELIS WOULD FOLLOW HIS LEAD.

7. ROMANIAN CHARGE CALLED LAST NIGHT TO SAY HE NOW HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY BUCHAREST RE RABBI MILLER AND HE ASKED IF RABBI MILLER MIGHT WISH TO GO TO ROMANIA. I REPLIED THAT RABBI MILLER CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD NOT YET INDICATED HE HAD ANY SUCH PLANS. CHARGE NOTED RABBI ROSEN WAS IN ISRAEL AND THOUGHT ROSEN WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH MILLER.

8. RABBI MILLER SAID HE WOULD BE LEAVING FOR GENEVA ON JUNE 30 AND WOULD BE AT THE HOTEL DURHONE THROUGH JULY 4.
VELIOTES

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